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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/687,100	10/15/2003	Barclay Fred Burns	5594-002	7245

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MARGER JOHNSON & MCCOLLOM, P.C.
210 SW MORRISON STREET, SUITE 400
PORTLAND, OR 97204

EXAMINER

SAADAT, CAMERON

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3715

DATE MAILED: 09/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/687,100

Applicant(s)

BURNS ET AL.

Examiner

Cameron Saadat

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/30/2006 has been entered. Claims 1-19 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-2, 6-8, 10-12, and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mann, II et al. (USPN 5,577,186; hereinafter Mann) in view of Massachusetts Department of Education.

Regarding claims 1 and 17, Mann discloses a method and system for simulating application software, comprising: providing a user interface introducing a problem to be solved and tools to be used to solve the problem, wherein the problem is tied to a core curriculum subject matter of graphical design. See Figure 3, ref. 53 lesson contents: discovering Paintbrush's menus, drawing, changing colors, Adding

typed-in text; presenting a generic application user interface having elements common to several different software packages of a particular type of software application to a user across a network (Col. 4, lines 48-51); receiving user inputs during an interaction with the user interface; and evaluating performance of the user for the type of software application based upon the user inputs (Col. 3, line 57 – Col. 4, line 10).

Mann discloses all of the claimed subject matter with the exception of explicitly disclosing the feature of providing educational content tied to *state educational standards* and using *educational technology standards* to evaluate performance. However, Massachusetts Department of Education teaches an educational system having curriculum that is tied to instructional technology standards having predetermined performance requirements for various grade levels. Thus, in view of Massachusetts Department of Education, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the educational system described in Mann, by providing educational content tied to state educational standards and using educational technology standards to evaluate performance, in order to provide guidelines that ensure a student's ability to apply a wide range of technology tools to his/her learning of curriculum concepts. *See Massachusetts Department of Education, P1.*

Regarding claim 2, Mann discloses a method wherein the user is provided with of his or her performance (Col. 4, lines 4-10).

Regarding claim 6, Mann discloses a method, comprising collecting all of the user inputs and evaluations of the user inputs and generating an evaluation report of the performance of the user for the particular type of software application (Col. 4, lines 4-10).

Regarding claim 7, Mann discloses a method, further comprising presenting a generic user interface for a presentation application (Col. 7, lines 50-65).

Regarding claims 8 and 19, Mann discloses a method of providing a user interface, comprising: providing an introduction to a problem for a user, wherein the problem is tied to at least one core

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curriculum subject matter of graphical design *See Figure 3, ref. 53 lesson contents: discovering Paintbrush's menus, drawing, changing colors, Adding typed-in text*; identifying tools to solve the problem, wherein the tools include at least one software application of a particular type; presenting a generic application user interface having elements common to several different software packages of a particular type of software application to a user across a network (Col. 4, lines 48-51); instructing the user on concepts and tools to be used in a solution; interacting with the user using the tools; displaying the solution; and providing the user with a summary of the problem and solution (Col. 3, lines 9-26). Mann discloses all of the claimed subject matter with the exception of explicitly disclosing the feature of providing educational content tied to *state educational standards* and using *educational technology standards* to evaluate performance. However, Massachusetts Department of Education teaches an educational system having curriculum that is tied to instructional technology standards having predetermined performance requirements for various grade levels. Thus, in view of Massachusetts Department of Education, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the educational system described in Mann, by providing educational content tied to state educational standards and using educational technology standards to evaluate performance, in order to provide guidelines that ensure a student's ability to apply a wide range of technology tools to his/her learning of curriculum concepts. *See Massachusetts Department of Education, P1.*

Regarding claim 10, Mann discloses a method, wherein interacting with the user further comprises receiving and evaluating a user input (Col. 8, lines 47-59).

Regarding claim 11 and 18, Mann discloses a method, wherein interacting with the user further comprises providing feedback on performance (Col. 4, lines 1-3).

Regarding claim 12, Mann discloses a method, wherein providing feedback further comprises indicating that the user made a correct input (Col. 8, lines 50-55).

Claims 3-5, 9, 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mann, II et al. (USPN 5,577,186; hereinafter Mann) in view of in view of Massachusetts Department of Education, further in view of Cook et al. (USPN 5,727,950; hereinafter Cook).

Regarding claims 3-5 and 13, the combination of Mann and Massachusetts Department of Education discloses all of the claimed subject matter with the exception of explicitly disclosing the feature of presenting a user with an opportunity to try again (as per claims 3, 4, and 13); providing a hint to a user (as per claim 4); and demonstrating the correct input (as per claim 5). However, Cook teaches a tutorial system wherein a user provides an input and the user is informed that the input is incorrect, and presenting the user with an opportunity to try again (See Fig. 5, refs. 405-407); demonstrating the correct input and providing a hint (See Fig. 4). Thus, in view of Cook, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the feedback described in Mann, by providing hints, demonstrating correct input, and providing a user the opportunity to try again, in order to provide a virtual tutor that guides a user through learning materials.

Regarding claims 9 and 15, the combination of Mann and Massachusetts Department of Education discloses all of the claimed subject matter with the exception of explicitly disclosing the feature of storing user input. However, Cook teaches a tutorial system wherein user interactions are stored (Col. 48, lines 20-32). Hence, in view of Cook, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the tutorial system described in Mann, by storing user inputs, in order to collect and provide indication of a user's current and past performance data.

Regarding claim 14, Mann discloses a method of providing an integrated technology learning system, comprising the steps of: establishing technology objectives for an instructional unit; identifying core curriculum subject matter components related to the technology objectives of graphical design See *Figure 3, ref. 53 lesson contents: discovering Paintbrush's menus, drawing, changing colors, Adding*

typed-in text; determining a framework for problem solving; determining common elements of a user interface for at least one particular type of software application (Col. 4, lines 48-51); and adding simulation functionality for that particular type (Col. 3, line 57 – Col. 4, line 10). Mann discloses all of the claimed subject matter with the exception of explicitly disclosing the feature of providing educational content tied to *state educational standards* and using *educational technology standards* to evaluate performance. However, Massachusetts Department of Education teaches an educational system having curriculum that is tied to instructional technology standards having predetermined performance requirements for various grade levels. Thus, in view of Massachusetts Department of Education, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the educational system described in Mann, by providing educational content tied to state educational standards and using educational technology standards to evaluate performance, in order to provide guidelines that ensure a student's ability to apply a wide range of technology tools to his/her learning of curriculum concepts. *See Massachusetts Department of Education, P1*. The combination of Mann and Massachusetts Department of Education discloses all of the claimed subject matter with the exception of explicitly disclosing the feature of providing a theme and characters. However, Cook teaches a tutorial system comprising various themes and characters (Col. 14, lines 30-54). Hence, in view of Cook, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the tutorial system described in Mann, by providing various themes and characters in order to provide a virtual coach that engages a user's interest based on his or her preferences.

Regarding claim 16, Mann discloses all of the claimed subject matter with the exception of explicitly disclosing the feature of providing educational content tied to *state educational standards* and using *educational technology standards* to evaluate performance. However, Massachusetts Department of Education teaches an educational system having curriculum that is tied to instructional technology standards having predetermined performance requirements for various grade levels. Thus, in view of Massachusetts Department of Education, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to

modify the educational system described in Mann, by providing educational content tied to state educational standards and using educational technology standards to evaluate performance, in order to provide guidelines that ensure a student's ability to apply a wide range of technology tools to his/her learning of curriculum concepts. *See Massachusetts Department of Education, P1*. The combination of Mann and Massachusetts Department of Education discloses all of the claimed subject matter with the exception of explicitly disclosing the feature of storing user input. However, Cook teaches a tutorial system wherein user interactions are stored (Col. 48, lines 20-32). Hence, in view of Cook, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the tutorial system described in Mann, by storing user inputs, in order to collect and provide indication of a user's current and past performance data.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 8/30/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant emphasizes that column 4, lines 56-63 of Mann discloses that the application interface is generic, and does not disclose a generic user interface. The examiner agrees. However, in column 4, lines 48-51. Mann discloses, "...because the program provides the same user interface, independent of the computer application software it is teaching, it provides the user with a familiar point of reference". Thus, Mann discloses the feature of presenting a generic application *user interface* having elements common to several different software packages of a particular type of software application.


Applicant further asserts that Mann is to be used with a particular computer application program. It is the examiner's position that, although the tutorial system described in Mann can be used with specific application programs, this does not mean that Mann does not disclose a *generic application user interface* having elements common to several different software packages.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cameron Saadat whose telephone number is (571) 272-4443. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on (571)272-6788. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Cameron Saadat
9/18/2006


JOHN M. HOTALING, II
PRIMARY EXAMINER